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CONTADORA, CENTRAL AMERICAN DELEGATES MEET

PA151553 Paris AFP in Spanish 1926 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Panama, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister German Navas today called on the plenipotentiary representatives of the five Central American countries who are meeting with the Contadora Group to make new efforts to hasten the region's peace negotiations.

Speaking on behalf of the four countries that form the Contadora Group and the four that form the Support Group -- Brazil, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay -- at the opening of the meeting with the Central American delegates, the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister said that there is an urgent need to restore stability and peaceful coexistence in the region.

Navas said that the Central American crisis is part of the continent's problems because no country, regardless of how far away it may be, is free of the situation's effects.

The Venezuelan diplomat added that the meeting, which began today at midday in Panama between the Contadora Group and the Central American plenipotentiaries, is the most important moment for the peace-making group.

He recalled that the "conviction" of the need to face the Central American situation prompted and encouraged the issuing of a message last month in Caraballeda, Venezuela. The message was issued by the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups regarding the peace-making effort. Navas said that the Caraballeda document, which focuses on the central aspects of the crisis, should be interpreted as an answer to the Central American situation, and "why not the Latin American panorama also?"

The deputy foreign minister said that the Caraballeda message contains a persistent attitude and reiterates the efforts to achieve peace, democracy, conciliation, and stability in Latin America as "necessary elements and the essential and undeferrable basis" to achieve peace.

"The area's reality forces us to seek solutions with Latin American mechanisms, concepts, and methods, and you all comprise the factor that will indicate if we are on the right path toward the solution of the conflict," he added.

Meanwhile, Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Cabrera said that the goal of peace "has made great progress" and that the pending topics "are few," but not "difficult."

The Contadora negotiations were suspended in November 1985 at Nicaragua's request, as that country considered it would be advantageous to wait until the elections in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala had concluded to resume talks on the Central American peace document with the security, political, economic, and social commitments vital to the achievement of peace.

Panama's Cabrera on Negotiations

PA151755 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1954 GMT 14 Feb 86

[By Rolando Raul Rodriguez]

[Text] Panama City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Panamanian deputy foreign minister said today that the "negotiations on the Contadora Document have made a lot of progress" but the topics pending discussion "are no less difficult."

Jose Maria Cabrera opened a meeting today between the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) and the Central American countries on behalf of Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias.

The meeting's agenda was not disclosed, but some of the delegates to this diplomatic session said that they will discuss matters pending on the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America involving security and the arms buildup.

Cabrera said that the Contadora Group must "find an appropriate and just solution" to these pending aspects. He said that he trusts that these aspects will be analyzed and approved.

Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister German Navas Carrillo, who made a general statement on behalf of the Contadora Group, said "that this moment represents an important one for the life and process of Contadora."

Navas Carrillo admitted that the crisis situation Central America is experiencing prompted the initiative that culminated with the Caraballeda meeting, which ended on 12 January and was attended by the foreign ministers of Contadora and the Support Group, comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguary, and Peru.

The eight foreign ministers approved the Caraballeda document which, the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister said, is "a response to the difficult situation in Central America and Latin America." In addition, he said, it is "an attempt to handle the extremely difficult situation we are facing in the most effective, fastest, and efficient way possible."

The Caraballeda document is a synthesis of the basic principles presented in the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America. This message was supported by the Central American countries through the Guatemala declaration signed on 14 January.

The Venezuelan deputy foreign minister said that the Caraballeda document "establishes permanent bases for peace in Central America," which are, Navas Carrillo asserted, "a Latin American solution for the crisis," with its own thoughts, intentions, and desires for peace and improvement.

Navas Carrillo stressed that "what is known as the Central American crisis is part of a continental problem: No corner of this continent is free of the effects, or far from the conflicts that stem from the current Central American situation."

Meeting Ends; No Declaration

PA160000 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 15 Feb 86

[By Agustin De Gracia]

[Text] Panama City, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Two days of talks between the Contadora Group and Central American diplomats concluded here today without any specific results and without touching at all the regional peace treaty.

The only agreement reached through formal negotiations was achieved by the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican deputy foreign ministers, Victor Hugo Tinoco and Gerardo Trejos, to create a "force for permanent inspection and surveillance" along the joint border, one of the most conflict-ridden spots in the region.

The deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela) and the Central American plenipotentiaries held lengthy discussions for 48 hours on the issue of methods, but did not achieve any results. At the end of the meeting, which ended without a joint declaration, the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister, German Nava Carrillo, said that the meeting served so that the Contadora Group will have a "very clear image of the ground on which we have to move." Nava Carrillo denied that there is a "contraction" of the peace efforts, but he admitted: "However, we cannot say that everything is running smoothly."

"We now have a more or less clear picture of the possibilities for action and future work," the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister added.

There was skepticism this afternoon among the Central American delegates attending the meeting, even though the Contadora Group insisted the meeting had yielded results, which it was unable to specify.

The deputy foreign ministers of the peace-seeking group decided to begin a tour through Central America, probably in March, with the purpose of "carrying out a series of consultations," said Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera.

This is the first meeting held since the approval of the principles of the Caraballeda document, which contains a summary of the regional peace plan and which, according to the Contadora Group, was aimed at promoting the peace efforts that had been stagnant for months.

However, the Caraballeda document, signed on 12 January by the Contadora Group and the Support Group (Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay) and supported by the Central American countries, was the main topic of discussion.

The Caraballeda document expresses the need to continue drafting the regional peace plan, but at the same time promotes, among other things, the suspension of military maneuvers, the elimination of military advisers, and the end to all support to guerrilla movements.

The problems started when Nicaragua suggested that all issues be discussed simultaneously while El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, the allies of the United States in the zone, preferred to analyze and discuss the regional peace plan before doing anything else.

Jorge Hernandez Alcerro, head of the Honduran delegation, accused Nicaragua of causing the peace efforts to regress and of unwillingness to continue discussing the peace plan.

Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, said that the Caraballeda Document "clearly establishes that it is a simultaneous process."

The Contadora Group insisted that the Caraballeda document and the peace plan are not interchangeable, but are complementary documents, Panamanian deputy foreign minister said.

The Venezuelan deputy foreign minister stressed that the peace plan is the "fundamental element" for peace, and the Colombian deputy foreign minister added that peace effort needs "to advance simultaneously."

Honduras Proposes Two Groups

PA181502 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1803 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- It has been officially announced that Honduras has proposed to Contadora the creation of two groups for the negotiation of the pending topics of the regional peace treaty.

The proposal was announced by Jorge Hernandez Alcerro, adviser of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and chief of the delegation of plenipotentiaries who are negotiating the terms of the regional peace treaty with the Contadora Group.

According to the Honduran proposal, one of the commissions, comprised of "military experts of the five Central American countries," would be in charge of negotiating the pending points of the regional peace treaty that deal with the subjects of disarmament.

The other negotiating group would be in charge of studying and drafting a proposal to make viable the verification and control mechanisms.

The Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America envisages the creation of a verification and contral commission that would supervise the fulfillment of the military commitments each nation accepts when it signs the treaty.

Hernandez Alcerro indicated that "no substantial progress was achieved" in the meeting between Central American plenipotentiaries and Contadora deputy foreign ministers held over the weekend in Panama City.

In the meeting, the Central American delegates did not make progress in the discussion of the regional peace treaty because the meeting centered on procedures to study the Caraballeda document, which refers to the main phases to achieve peace in the region.

Hernandez Alcerro also disclosed that "1 year ago, the Honduran authorities also proposed the creation of a fund to finance verification and control, as well as economic and social development projects in the region."

According to Hernandez Alcerro, "the main obstacle to the achievement of a peace agreement continues to be the closed position of Nicaragua which does not want to sign any regional agreement as long as it does not achieve a bilateral agreement with the United States."

SOVIET DELEGATION PROPOSES REMODELING OF PORT

PY142055 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2155 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb (NA) -- A Soviet delegation that will submit a proposal for the "dredging and remodeling" of the port of Bahia Blanca arrived in Argentina today. This is the first Soviet mission to visit Argentina in the framework of the agreements signed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo during his recent visit to the Soviet Union. On that occasion, Caputo approved the renewal of a grain purchase agreement through which the Soviet Union committed itself to import a minimum of 4.5 million tons of grains per year, while Argentina offered to purchase industrial products for a total of $500,000.

These industrial purchases will include the purchase of the turbines necessary to put in operation the Piedra del Aguila hydroelectric complex and the remodeling of the Bahia Blanca port, which will become a deep-water port. This project is of particular interest, because a large volume of grain exports are shipped through the port of Bahia Blanca. According to a recent Transportation Secretariat estimate, the remodeling of the Bahia Blanca port will considerably reduce shipping costs. Estimates say that costs will be reduced by about $154 million per year.

The Soviet project, which has already been submitted to Industry and Trade Secretary Roberto Lavagna, is guaranteed by the Ansaldo, Ferruzzi, and Buhler companies, of Italy, and by an important group of Argentine companies headed by Sideco Americana Inc. Sources close to the Industry Secretariat have said that the offer includes the complete financing of the foreign and local participation, while the credit that has been offered will be payable in Argentine food products, thus avoiding the expenditure of currency.

The offer will be submitted to Public Works Minister Roberto Tomasini by a Soviet delegation headed by the Soviet Maritime Fleet Minister Admiral Vladimir Vladimirovich Aristarkhov and the Soviet Embassy economic affairs attache. Moreover, the delegation which is made up of prominent executives of the participating companies will meet with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and representatives of the Argentine National Grain Board.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR UK

PY160233 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2042 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM) -- The congressional delegation made up of Senators Adolfo Gass (UCR) [Radical Civic Union] and Julio Amoedo (Popular Conservative Party), and Deputies Federico Storani (UCR) and Jose Bordon (PJ) [Justicialist Party] departed this afternoon for the United Kingdom, where they plan to discuss Argentina's claims over the Malvinas at the invitation of British lawmakers. The Argentine lawmakers unanimously ruled out any possibility of meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The representatives of the ruling party denied having received any instructions in this regard, and Storani pointed out that should any such possibility come up they would consult with the chief executive.

Senator Gass indicated that the lawmakers did not have a chance to talk with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who returned yesterday, but reaffirmed that the government had approved the trip. I am a government man, and I would not go if I knew that the government did not approve of this trip, he added. He went on to say that our hosts have not scheduled or arranged any meeting with members of the British Government and explained that the visit's agenda is in the hands of the British parliamentarians.

As to the welcome they expect, the senator said: We expect to be received as cordially and respectfully as we have received them, although he did acknowledge that, just as in Argentina, some minor incidents could take place because there is always some hothead around. We hope to have a chance to explain our position to the British public; we hope that they will understand us and that the United Kingdom will move swiftly to comply with the UN resolution to resume talks, Gass concluded. Senator Amoedo emphasized the importance of the trip by saying that when the British lawmakers came to Argentina it was an informal and unofficial visit, while in this case the invitation was formally issued by the House of Commons.

The conservative senator harshly criticized the landing of Argentine troops on the Malvinas Islands which unleashed the war over the Malvinas. He stressed that the lack of experience and rashness of the military officers who ordered the invasion that led many innocent soldiers to their deaths should not be forgotten. He added that, furthermore, the military adventure paralyzed the negotiations to Great Britain's advantage.

Amoedo explained that during its meetings the Argentine delegation plans to demand compliance with UN Resolution No. 40/21 that calls for resumption of negotiations. So far, the British Government has not complied with this resolution. This is why we are going to Parliament, which is the source of power in Great Britain. Amoedo saw as positive the fact that we are being asked to defend our position not only at the House of Commons but also at the House of Lords and in Oxford.

The visit of the Argentine lawmakers is taking place at the invitation of the British branch of the Interparliamentarian Union of Commons, presided over by David Crouch. The agenda includes meetings with lawmakers and leaders of the Conservative, Labor, Social Democratic and Liberal Parties and with church and academic representatives.

Official Contacts Denied

PY180243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0014 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA) -- Deputies Federico Storani and Jose Bordon tonight denied that their delegation plans to hold official meetings in London to discuss the Malvinas conflict, a subject which has already been broached with the leaders of the various political parties of the United Kingdom. Thus, the two deputies refuted reports saying preliminary contacts have already been made for talks with high-ranking officials of the Thatcher administration. These talks would be outside the pre-established agenda arranged as part of the invitation made by the British branch of the World Parliamentary Union. Storani (UCR) [Radical Civic Union] and Bordon (Justicialist Party) [PJ], issued their denials from London, the former to Beunos Aires radio stations Mitre and Continental and the latter to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the two deputies and Senators Adolfo Gass (UCR) and Julio Amoedo (Popular Conservative Party) tonight held a meeting in London to evaluate the talks they participated in today. Storani described these talks a "very positive." Asked about the source of the rumors about the official nature of the lawmakers' trip, Storani said that inside the British administration "there are sectors that will try to sow confusion about the true nature of the mission," and called upon the Argentine press to report on the basis of information received from "the horse's mouth."

He added: "We must be very careful about this issue because our country's supreme interests, such as the recovery of the legitimate sovereignty we claim over the Malvinas Islands and other territories in the South Atlantic, are involved." Storani indicated that the agenda of the mission has been programmed in Great Britain and reiterated that within the framework of these prescheduled activities the Argentine group has met with conservative parliamentarians but not with government officials. "There have been no official contacts with British Government officials, nor will there be any because no such contact has been scheduled," the Argentine lawmaker emphasized.

Storani stressed the performance of the British press that "has reported on the meetings of the Argentine delegation with various British figures and on the press conference held to explain Argentina's position." He reiterated that the delegation has traveled at the invitation of members of the World Parliamentary Union and denied that the group is authorized to hold official talks with members of the British Government because "it does not represent Argentina's foreign policy or the nation's Congress."

"We have not received any instructions about holding official meetings with British Government members, and we must simply limit ourselves to comply with our agenda as part of a general strategy that will help in the understanding and progress of the subject," he concluded.

In turn, Bordon qualified the delegation's first day of work as "satisfactory" and said that the Argentine position regarding the Malvinas conflict was "explained and defended" before British personalities, including congressmen from the ruling party. He said that our reasons "were understood in several British sectors," while others "maintained their negative attitude" but listened "attentively" to the congressmen's words.

Bordon reported that the group's activities "are held according with the pre-established agenda," and he assured that "no interview with the British Government officials was requested or offered to them." In this sense, the Peronist congressman pointed out that "in the case of a change of attitude by the British Foreign Office" the Argentine delegation should "report it to Argentina before making any decision."

CENTRAL BANK SUSPENDS PAYMENTS TO PARIS CLUB

PY171649 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Feb 86 p 5

[Text] The Central Bank has suspended the payments to be made this year to the foreign creditors that operate within the Paris Club. According to Central Bank Letter "A" No. 848, the payment suspension covers the public and private sectors with due dates this year to foreign governments or official agencies. It also covers commercial obligations that have export guarantees or insurance in the country of origin. In both cases the debt would have been contracted before 10 December 1983 with payment terms of over 1 year. This measure is based on the Argentine request to the official foreign creditors of the Paris Club for the rescheduling of the expiration dates of this year's public and private debts. The Central Bank warns that if payments affected by this regulation are made, the Central Bank will request the immediate reimbursement of the transferred payment.

CARTAGENA MEETING POSTPONED AT GOVERNMENT REQUEST

PY182150 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] At the request of the Bolivian delegation, the meeting of the Cartagena Consensus representatives that was to be held in Santa Cruz on 21 February has been postponed for reasons our country considers valid.

This was announced today by Integration Minister Fernando Caceres at the end of a visit to the president of the republic at Government Palace.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Following the meeting in Caraballeda, Venezuela, what will be Bolivia's situation in the Cartagena Consensus?

[Caceres] I believe there are two possibilities. The first is the direct aid that the integration ministers have offered Bolivia. They also intend to visit the country to discuss the possibility of other countries granting us aid.

The second possibility is that of resuming the stalled talks on our commercial problems. This would be done through a meeting of integration ministers at the Cartagena Consensus Board office, so that after the rough edges are smoothed out, we would be able to resume those talks. [end recording]

Two important meetings of Andean country representatives had been scheduled over the next few days. One of these meetings was to have been held in Santa Cruz, and the other in Galapagos. Both of these meetings have been postponed. Minister Caceres explained the reasons.

[Begin recording] The Santa Cruz meeting was postponed at my request. The reason is that a consensus was needed for this meeting. [passage indistinct] The meeting that was to be held in Santa Cruz has been postponed indefinitely. [end recording]

TALKS BEGIN WITH BRAZIL ON ILLEGAL ALIENS

PY182127 Paris AFP in Spanish 1249 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] La Paz, 18 Feb (AFP) -- Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle today announced here that the Bolivian Government has started negotiations with the Brazilian Embassy in La Paz regarding the persistent penetration of Brazilian citizens into northeastern Bolivia.

Valle said that his ministry has begun negotiations so that the two countries can initiate a joint action to control the illegal flow of people into the regions near the Madre de Dios and Madera Rivers, where large gold deposits are located.

The minister said that the National Security Council (Conase), the most important strategic organization, will approve a final report on the illegal presence of foreigners in the northeast, about the gold resources, and about the foundation of a new Bolivian-ruled settlement called Nueva Esperanza.

Valle concluded by saying that the Bolivian Navy will purchase several river patrol boats and that it will increase the number of its troops in the regions where foreigners have illegally penetrated.

DRUG TRAFFICKING INCREASING IN LA PAZ DEPARTMENT

PY180249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0322 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] La Paz, 16 Feb (EFE) -- It was reported here today that the Intelligence Department of the Bolivian Interior Ministry has seized 170 kg of cocaine during an operation aimed at finding possible armed groups in semitropical regions close to La Paz.

After brief skirmishes in the area, the Bolivian police arrested 12 persons while 3 others managed to escape into the jungle, although one of them had been shot, Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy reported.

He added: "At first we suspected that it was an armed group and sent a detachment to the yungas [subtropical valleys], where to our surprise we found 75 bags of cocaine, a few weapons and forged documents."

The narcotics were to be taken to Pando on the Brazilian border to be processed and then sent to Colombia, the prisoners reported.

Minister Barthelemy said that "the yungas area in La Paz Department had ceased to be an important target for the struggle against drug trafficking because of the increase of this criminal activity in Chapare, central Bolivia, but from now on we will control this region more effectively."

PANAMA REQUESTS SOLIDARITY ON CANAL ISSUE

PY141253 Paris AFP in Spanish 2334 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] La Paz, 13 Feb (AFP) -- During a press conference held here today, Panamanian Ambassador to Bolivia Jaime Ramirez Morales asked for Bolivia's solidarity with his country in view of U.S. attempts to disregard the terms of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Ramirez also showed a copy of the protest that Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias lodged with U.S. Ambassador to Panama Ellis Briggs over statements made by Michael Lowry, president of the Panama Canal Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The protest note said Lowry's statements were inconsiderate.

This official believes that his country should condition the widening and modernization of the canal in the so-called Culebra Cut passage on Panama's human rights record and on its maintaining a democratic government, the ambassador explained.

Ambassador Ramirez Morales repeated what Foreign Minister Abadia Arias had said about the Torrijos-Carter treaties. He stressed that those treaties are not subject to unilateral interpretations by the U.S. Government, and that the United States will have to return the canal to Panama in 1999 regardless of the government in power.

He concluded by asking the Bolivian Government and people to be alert and to express their solidarity with the Panamanian cause, as they have done in recent years.

DEBT TALKS SET WITH PARIS CLUB, BANK OF FRANCE

PY171652 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Next week, Brazil will have its first formal contact with the Paris Club to renegotiate its debt with OECD countries, Central Bank President Fernao Bracher has announced. On 24 February, Bracher will meet in France with Jean-Claude (Duiche), president of the Paris Club, and with executives of the Bank of France. Bracher said that it is too early to determine the terms of the renegotiation. He added that all payments, including interest, that have fallen due since January 1985 have been deposited at the Central Bank in the name of the creditors, awaiting the conclusion of the negotiations. Brazil expects the Paris Club to agree to reschedule the Brazilian medium and long-term debt as well as related interest payments. If the Brazilian proposal is accepted, the Paris Club will reschedule the $1.24-billion debt that fell due in 1985 over a 7-year period with a 5-year grace period, and will have to accept the suspension of payment of the $1.1 billion that will fall due this year, in addition to all related charges.

NEW INDUSTRY MINISTER ON PRIVATIZATION, ETHICS

PY181935 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 86 p 5

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Right after being sworn in yesterday, Industry and Trade Minister Jose Hugo Castelo Branco said that he intends to "turn all we can over to the private sector." During his speech he also said that his administration will be austere and not tolerate misuse of public funds. He said he will respect every cent of the taxpayers which enters the Industry and Trade Ministry safes. "I would rather leave my position this minute than admit the possibility of compromising with corruption and misuse of public money, because I would be dealing in the blood, sweat, and suffering of the Brazilian people," he stressed. Former Minister Roberto Gusmao, well aware of what is facing his successor, wished: "May the Lord help Jose Hugo and save him from the calumnies, infamies, and demagoguery of public life."

Castelo Branco also asserted that in the political and economic fields, Brazil is a mature country and that, for this reason, he sees no problem in accepting foreign capital: "The multinational companies will be welcome, as long as they come to contribute to the development of our country. We will not tolerate predatory policies or policies which go against our national interests. However, we need foreign risk capital to help us build the sovereignty and the future of this country."

ITAMARATY COMMENTS ON BOLIVIAN RELATIONS

PY181445 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira yesterday said in Brasilia, regarding the illegal entrance of Brazilian citizens into Bolivia in search of gold, rubber, chestnuts, and other products, that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has not received any official letter from La Paz. He also said that the relations between the two countries are excellent. Nogueira said that the information has been picked up by the Brazilian Embassy in La Paz from Bolivian newspapers. Reports from La Paz last week said that Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal had requested intervention of the Brazilian Government to prevent border conflicts that may result from the presence of 10,000 Brazilians searching for gold.

SARNEY TO VISIT PORTUGAL, ITALY IN MAY

PY181350 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] President Sarney is going to make his third trip abroad in late May. Sarney will visit two countries, Portugal and Italy. In the Portuguese capital, the first stop on this trip, Sarney will meet with Portuguese President-elect Mario Soares, and he will also be honored by the Portuguese Academy of Letters in Lisbon. Sarney will then visit Rome where he will meet with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican. Sarney's trip is being organized by the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Ministry spokesman Fernando Mesquita reported that the trip is being scheduled within the next 120 days and that it will be his third trip abroad since he became presdient. Sarney has made two trips abroad: last August he visited Uruguay, and the following month he opened the UN annual assembly in New York.

PAPER SEES LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN NEW CABINET

PY181942 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The Sarney Cabinet"]

[Text] Apart from occasional mistakes and rhetorical utterances intended to momentarily further particular party interests, the crisis that broke out shortly before the new Cabinet was announced served to weaken the influence of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] on the decisions of the executive branch. Although suffering from internal disarray, from a relative electoral debilitation, and from its waverings in the way of supporting the current government, the PMDB still supplied most of the components to the new Cabinet. It is undeniable, however, that the PMDB failed to use all its political weight in the composition of the Cabinet up to the last moment.

Despite the fact that it is not very edifying, the spectacle of the unbridled struggle for positions, selfish interests, and regional supremacy is not, in itself, reproachable. In moments like this it is only natural that exacerbated pressures, explicit discontent, and attempts at intimidation should come to the fore, but it could not be expected that the president would not resist some of the most intense pressures to which he was submitted. It would be difficult to conceive that such resistance did not exist. However, there was no resistance when, at the time he became head of the nation, the president agreed to maintain the entire Cabinet chosen by Tancredo Neves.

The recent act of presidential reassertion did not help, however, to make the government's basic intentions and priorities any clearer. The existence of a minister of irrigation (without infrastructure) stands as a confession that, once more, the lack of perspective has been replaced with propaganda. Even though the effects of the ministerial reform on the PMDB can be seen as traumatic, the shape of the Sarney government is left as indefinite as before. The coexistence of former members of the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] with some representatives of the historical opposition does not seem solidified under the auspices of the New Republic, nor does it hide the dramatic difference which, for minor reasons, grabbed the headlines in recent days. Also the disparity of the curriculum of some members of the cabinet with the duties and functions they must perform cannot be overlooked -- although this disparity was also the trademark of the previous Cabinet. The statements by the president that the new team is "cohesive, homogeneous, and integrated," therefore, have an ironical ring about them.

Despite the fact that the most obvious pressures have been overcome, the Sarney ministry emerges with the same fragility as the previous Cabinet. The new ministerial team appears to be just as, or perhaps more, colorless, inconclusive, and empty as the one it replaced. As for its possible future significance, not much can be said and very little can be predicted.

COFFEE INSTITUTE PRESIDENT TENDERS RESIGNATION

PY150258 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Feb (AFP) -- Brazilian Coffee Institute [IBC] President Ambassador Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa has tendered his resignation to President Jose Sarney, it was officially reported in Brasilia. Presidential spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita reported that President Sarney accepted Leite Barbosa's resignation but did not reveal his reason for resigning. Mesquita also said that the IBC executive board members had also resigned their posts, adding that Leite Barbosa's successor has not been appointed yet. Barbosa assumed his position in August 1985, replacing Carlos Richbieter.

New President Appointed

PY151444 Paris AFP in Spanish 0203 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Businessman Paulo Sergio Portugal Graciano was appointed today as Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC) president to replace Ambassador Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa who resigned last Thursday. An Industry and Commerce Ministry spokesman added that Graciano's first task will be to investigate denunciations of alleged irregularities reportedly committed at the IBC, irregularities that have caused losses worth $300 million. According to unofficial reports, these losses have reportedly been caused by coffee exports at prices below those currently prevailing on the international market.

BRIEFS

TRANSNATIONALS REDUCE INVESTMENTS -- Rio de Janeiro 16 Feb (EFE) -- According to a book published by Brazilian Economist Gouveira Rodrigues, the large transnational enterprises in Brazil have reduced their investments in this country as of 1982. According to the study from 1981 to 1984, capital investments made by transnational enterprises dropped from 48.77 percent to 26.96 percent [figures as received]. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 16 Feb 86 PY]

COMMUNIST PARTY DENIES ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

PY181340 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has reiterated that it has never issued instructions inciting people to sabotage and violence. The PCCh claims that the document is a forgery and that its objective is to hinder successful talks on social mobilization, However, Christian Democratic [DC] leader Carlos Dupre has stated that the PCCh instruction document is genuine. In turn, PCCh leader Osiel Nunez told this newscast that the party had already denounced the existence of many forged documents attributed to the PCCh, including this instruction document that has allegedly been sent to the regional PCCh secretaries.

When Nunez was informed that DC leader Carlos Dupre had said that the PCCh instructions are genuine and that the road to national insurrection was approved by the PCCh plenum last January, Osiel Nunez said he was surprised at this attack by Dupre, especially at a time when a strong social consensus is about to be achieved.

[Begin Nunez recording] It seems odd -- to say the least -- that Dupre, who is not even a PCCh member, should testify to the existence of a PCCh document that has been described as nonexistent by the PCCh itself. It is also odd that Dupre should make these harsh statements at a time when an atmosphere of consensus is finally being achieved among the opposition parties. [end recording]

When asked whether the PCCh is willing to abandon the road of violence to achieve a peaceful solution in the country, Osiel Nunez replied:

[Begin Nunez recording] The PCCh advocates every form of struggle. This is not something the PCCh has proposed, but something that has developed within the people themselves, because they are unable to make their voice heard and their rights respected. Thus, the forms of struggle are determined to a large degree by the actions taken by the dictatorship against our people, rather than by the PCCh or any other force. [end recording]

Osiel Nunez concluded by saying that 1986 will be the year of social consensus and this will be achieved through unity among all the opposition sectors without discrimination.

PDC YOUTH LEADER ANDREW PALMA ARRESTED

PY182238 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Christian Democratic Party youth leader Andres Palma was sent to the Capuchinos prison a short time ago, although he is not being held incommunicado. The PDC leader was questioned by Judge Sergio Mery for 35 minutes in connection with charges leveled by the government. Several people gathered in front of the court building to voice their support for Palma, whom they applauded as he arrived. Before being questioned in the court, we talked with Palma and asked him his opinion on the legal action that has been initiated against him.

[Begin Palma recording] What I said is in line with the position of the PDC youth and of the party itself. From a journalistic viewpoint, the interview reflects my line of thinking, and this is what I am going to tell the judge. I do not think I have committed a crime. Everything I said is within the law, and everyone else is entitled to say the same thing. This is what I am going to tell the judge. [end recording]

It should be recalled that the government has leveled charges that also affect Democratic Intransigence Movement President Manuel Sanhueza, who is the president of the group of constitutional studies, and former communist lawmaker Alejandro Toro. The charges were leveled in connection with statements the three leaders made to ANALISIS magazine. They are charged with violating the internal security law by, among other actions, offending the president, calling for a national stoppage, and instigating disobedience within the Armed Forces.

After being questioned by Judge Sergio Mery for 35 minutes, Palma was ordered arrested. The judge decided that he will be allowed to receive visits while in jail. Meanwhile, People's Democratic Movement youth President Victor Contreras has said that the movement he leads shares Palma's views.

[Begin Contreras recording] We want to express our full solidarity with Andres Palma and with the PDC youth, because we agree with what Andres told ANALISIS magazine. We are convinced that all social and political forces must mobilize to put an end to the regime. This is the target of the struggle that the Chilean youth have waged over the past few years. The youths have played a major role in the mobilization, and several young people have been repressed because of this. Thus, we agree with Andres that Pinochet will have to be expelled, because he will not leave on his own will. We believe that to attain this goal, the various youth political and social organizations must take steps forward and give an example of unity in our action and in the search for a sociopolitical accord. [end recording]

EXILED FORMER SENATOR MIRANDA RETURNS TO MEXICO

PY162010 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Feb 86 p C 3

[Text] Yesterday, Former Senator Hugo Miranda severely criticized the National Accord before returning to Mexico where he has been living since February 1975, when he was expelled from the country. He classified the National Accord as "limited, excludable, vague, and unfeasible." Miranda had been in Chile since 30 January 1986, when the authorities permitted his return to visit his mother, Flor Ramirez, who is seriously ill at the La Serena hospital.

The former senator and former president of the Radical Party deemed the Accord "limited because it is circumscribed to the opposition parties I call "last minute", putting aside the "old time" opposition members, the popular parties. Consequently, an incomplete call does not seem entirely democratic to me," he said. "I have received the National Accord, and I have said so abroad, as a sign of the increase in the number and volume of the opposition, but I deem the project unfeasible and not democratic because it does not comprise the opinion of the great majority of the opposition."

Miranda also criticized the dispersion of the opposition, but confessed his optimism that this situation will be overcome. He insisted that "the unity of the opposition in carrying out a feasible project, with a really democratic political solution, is necessary." As advice for the opposition he said "it is necessary to unite, to unite loyally, honestly, with a sense of ethics, and through projects which can really mobilize the people."

"I believe," he added, "that this year will be important. There will be more and more dynamic, aggressive, and penetrating social mobilization, but the ones who want to apply imported models to the Chilean reality are quite wrong. Chile cannot become Sweden or the Soviet Union overnight. When certain people believe, as I do, that the strengthening of the left-wing parties is necessary, they are not, however remotely, thinking about reviving the Popular Unity, which was a full, rich experience, but one meant for another time. The present moment is different."

MINISTER ON NEED TO REVITALIZE CARTAGENA CONSENSUS

PA182033 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The ministers of development and economic integration of the Andean Pact have agreed to adopt an emergency plan to save that agreement and indefinitely postpone the signing of a protocol modifying the Cartagena Consensus.

We have Economic Development Minister Gustavo Castro Guerrero on the line. He just attended the Caraballeda meeting, and we would like him to please tell us the conclusions of this important meeting.

[Begin live telephone relay] [Castro Guerrero] We agreed on three points: First, to implement an emergency plan that allows us to reactivate trade among the five countries that signed the Cartagena Consensus as soon as possible. There was no difficulty regarding that issue. We agreed on that quickly and the commission on the Cartagena Consensus, headed by Nora Rey, must draft the outline of this emergency plan in the next few days.

Second, we discussed the criteria that must be used by the countries in the area concerning the useful foreign investment. There wasn't much argument about this. We must highlight the consensus among all the countries in order not to dismantle the basic structure of Decision No 24, but to make small changes that seek to make the useful foreign investment in our countries more flexible.

Third, we discussed the protocol that will modify the agreement. We truly identified the points of agreement and those of disagreement. The latter will be discussed in the next few days to try to overcome them so that we can sign the modifying protocol [protocolo modificatorio] in the next few months.

[Question] So, the meeting that was to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia to make a decision on this protocol was suspended indefinitely?

[Castro Guerrero] Yes, we decided to postpone it but not indefinitely, as you said. We decided to postpone it and will set a new date for it this week. I am to hold meetings with members of the Cartagena Consensus board who are the ones who should now take steps to see how a consensus is reached by reconciling the various views. I repeat: The main disagreements are those that affect the safeguard clauses [clausulas de salvaguardia]. Regarding this, Venezuela maintains that there are products that although their restrictions were removed in 1970, now -- 16 years later -- they still affect Venezuela's industrial production. I think that Venezuela is right and thus we must redraft everything concerning the safeguard clauses so that they can be used when there are serious disorders that affect a country's economy.

However, there are countries, like Ecuador, that are truly opposed to changing the safeguard clauses. This is where we stand.

[Question] Mr Minister, the international media is always observing that representatives of the various governments that comprise the Andean Pact are constantly meeting to try to strengthen the Cartegena Consensus; however, one continues to watch this, and a standstill seems to be the usual outcome. This is worrisome. How did you view those who gathered with you in these recent deliberations? Do they truly agree on strengthening the pact?

[Castro Guerrero] I attended a meeting in Cartagena and now this one. I admit that there is a lot of rhetoric on the Cartagena Consensus among those who attend these meetings.

The former leader is in favor of obtaining a democracy "with prospects of modification and social change," and indicated that he is against projects which aim at establishing a popular or workers' democracy "which I do not believe to be adequate for the country at the moment," and at the same time he also rejected "negotiation for the establishment of a restricted democracy."

He concluded by saying that a representative democracy is not sufficient, because the world has developed and there have been social changes throughout the planet, which means that the concept of democracy has become broader. "We are going back to Jean Jacques Rousseau's classical concept of democracy which emphasized the equalitarian sense of democracy as its essence. Therefore, it is not just to achieve a democracy with free open periodic elections, but to establish a democracy which means participation of the people in all levels of the social, economic, and cultural life, and which, consequently, becomes an advanced democracy compared to what we had until 1973."

NUCLEAR EXPERT CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICY

PY142243 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Feb 86 p C 3

[Excerpts] "If Chile had an adequate policy in the nuclear energy field, it could develop an adequate infrastructure to meet the domestic energy consumption demands. The necessary manpower could be trained in a short time, a task that is currently being fully undertaken by the University of Chile." This statement was made by Carlos Infante upon the conclusion of a course called: "Nuclear Physics: Basic Research and Applications." Infante is an academician at the University of Chile, Faculty of Science.

Infante said that "Chile possesses the La Reina nuclear reactor. It would be very useful to maintain it. Presently, only 10 percent of its capacity is being used because it is felt that this is sufficient. In this regard, an adequate policy is lacking in our country." Dr Infante added that "in 1984, the average energy consumption in Chile reached 1,500 megawatts and with two large reactors (because this is the only way to lower the costs) these needs will reportedly be met. The energy consumption increase during certain hours in winter justifies the installation of a nuclear reactor. This is something that will be reviewed in 1990."

The review of this problem is justified by the high cost incurred in meeting energy demands which "are currently met by operating the Renca and Quintero thermoelectrical power plants. However, these plants produce energy at a very high cost because they are mainly operating on petroleum. This could increase the need for a reactor," Infante said. The reactor in the La Reina Research Center is currently being used for industrial and medical purposes, making it a leading center in these fields in Latin America.

BRIEFS

BANK INTEREST RATE REDUCED -- The State Bank president has announced that the bank will reduce its real annual interest rate to 6 percent as of next month. The bank's 19,000 production debtors, as well as many others, have said that this measure is stimulating and in keeping with current times. The State Bank president also said that debtors should renegotiate their debts for new payment terms, which should not exceed 10 years. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Feb 86 PY]

Although it is true that Colombia has increased its trade with Venezuela and Ecuador through bilateral agreements in which they have tried to follow the clear lines of the Cartagena Consensus, I must concede that bilateral agreements are not the multilateral philosophy that must prevail in the Cartagena Consensus. Colombia has been able to increase its trade, and now it is at the same level with Venezuela and Ecuador. It is at the highest level in the past few years. However, I must admit that essential differences still prevail. We gain nothing by hiding them. There are essential differences and also differences in philosophy. It is almost impossible to reach agreements when there are two radically opposed positions from the philosophical viewpoint. However, this should not make it appear that it is not possible to reach an agreement. I repeat: We will increase our efforts in the next few days to reach an agreement. However, there are philosophical differences. One view is that held by Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru. Its goal is to find an expanded market for our productive sectors. We are interested in the internal development of our economy, and the social and economic growth of our nations. There is another philosophy: that of Ecuador. It seeks to balance trade right now. [end recording]

BISHOPS MEET, APPEAL FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS

PA180203 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The bishops met and discussed several matters this morning. During its meeting in Bogota today in anticipation of the pope's visit, the episcopate's plenary assembly appealed to Christians to cast their votes in a clean, unmanipulated way in the coming elections. This has been explained by Msgr Silverio Buitrago, archbishop of the convulsed Cauca area.

[Begin recording] [Buitrago] All of us should be aware of the importance of our votes. This vote of ours should be free, responsible, honest, and secret. This right to cast a vote should be guaranteed.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think there is a proper climate for the electoral process in Cauca?

[Buitrago] I think there is, although Cauca, as the people well know, has been taken by the subversive groups to a certain extent to turn it into another Sierra Maestra, so to speak. [end recording]

In addition to analyzing the electoral process in the episcopal meeting, the 74 bishops will complete details for the pope's visit. On opening the meeting, Msgr Hector Rueda said this about the country's current social situation.

[Begin recording] Apparently, the country's economic penury has been alleviated through international credits and the coffee bonanza. Most of the Colombian people, however, have continued to be hard hit by the high cost of living, unemployment, and insecurity. [end recording]

PATRIOTIC UNION URGES FARC FRONT TO END FIGHTING

PA172145 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Bogota, 16 Feb (EFE) -- The Patriotic Union Party, UP, founded by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, which has observed a truce since 1984, today asked the members of the 14th Front to stop fighting the Army.

UP coordinator Braulio Herrera announced that he will ask Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias Tirofijo, founder and main leader of FARC, to order the 14th Front to stop fighting.

The presence of the 14th Front in Yondo, Antioquia Department, forced the Army to militarize the oil zone in Magdalena Media, in the northern part of the country, which caused the exodus of more than 4,000 peasants to Barrancabermeja, Santander Department.

Herrera and Carlos Morales, a member of the Peace Commission, met in Barrancabermeja, where the peasants have taken refuge in public buildings. Herrera, leader of the new political party, talked to Jorge Sepulveda Patino, mayor of Barrancabermeja, to find a solution to the exodus of the peasants.

Meanwhile, the government has reiterated that military vigilance will continue in the zone, in order to guarantee that the 9 March legislative elections are held under normal conditions.

FARC Imposes Condition

PA190004 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2316 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (EFE) -- Today, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, said that they will withdraw from the Middle Magdalena region provided the Army ends its operations and withdraws its troops from the area, where more than 4,000 peasants have abandoned their land fleeing the fighting.

This was reported by Braulio Herrera, spokesman for the Patriotic Union, UP, a party founded by FARC to participate in politics after the 1984 truce with the Colombian Government.

Herrera said that Manuel Marulanda Velez (alias Tirofijo), founder and top leader, has said: "If the president of the Republic orders the Army to suspend its operations in the Middle Magdalena region, the 14th Front will do the same and will avoid clashes."

The UP coordinator said that the first step to end the clashes and allow the return of the peasants, crowded at present into schools in Barrancabermeja Santander Department, will be "the bilateral suspension of hostilities."

Herrera added that FARC has requested a meeting in the next few hours with the commission for Peace, Dialogue, and Verification of the Agreements, in order to study the situation of the refugees in Barrancabermeja, where food is scarce and school activities have been stopped to house the refugees.

Moreover, five representatives of the peasant refugees travelled to Bogota, 400 km south of the Middle Magdalena region, to meet with President Belisario Betancur. They demanded the withdrawal of the Army troops and free navigation on the Magdalena River so the inhabitants could return to their lands.

AMERICA BATTALION ANNOUNCES ARMED STRUGGLE

PA141445 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 86 pp 1, 3 A

[Excerpt] A soldier, a policeman, four guerrillas, and a peasant died yesterday in an attack by the FARC in Yondo, Antioquia, and an attack by the 19 April Movement [M-19] on a patrol in southern Bogota, where the America Battalion, which is made up of guerrillas from other countries, announced the beginning of the armed struggle in the cities.

The police told EL TIEMPO that troops of the 5th Brigade clashed with guerrillas of the 14th FARC Front in Yondo. As a result of the clash, three guerrillas, a soldier, and a peasant were killed and the area, which is an Antioquia, had to be placed under military control.

In the Vistahermosa district in southern Bogota, three men and a woman -- all of whom belong to the America Battalion -- attacked a police patrol and killed policeman Ruben Dario Gomez Reyes. Later, a guerrilla was killed and seven others, who were carrying explosives, were captured during a raid.

This is the first time that the America Battalion is known to have staged an incursion into a city because the guerrillas wrote slogans on the walls announcing the beginning of the armed struggle in Bogota. Personnel from the artillery school placed the area under military control and raided a residence in Las Torres, where they seized propaganda material of the M-19.

M-19's 'RADIO MACONDO' BEGINS TRANSMISSIONS

PA151810 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1633 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Bogota, 15 Feb (EFE) -- A guerrilla radio station of the "19 April Movement" (M-19) of Colombia began to operate under the name "Radio Macondo," the mythical town of the novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude," written by Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

"Radio Macondo," which has been heard in the past few hours in Bogota, stated that the station will initially "cover the central part of the country" and that it can be tuned on a modulated frequency.

In its first broadcast, the station proposed a "national town meeting in which the people would be the great jury."

It stated that this is an "M-19" effort involving the participation of "centrist milita forces in the transmission itself, as well as the rallying of sectors to protect the headquarters."

Stimultaneously, the "M-19" sent a bulletin to the media announcing "the opening of Radio Macondo" and invited them to tune in.

Military and police authorities are trying to determine the whereabouts of Radio Macondo's transmission center.

RECONCILIATION WITHIN COLORADO PARTY PROPOSED

PY182038 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 86 p 6

[Text] "With loyalty and good will," a group of Colorado Party members has submitted to the Government Junta of the Republican National Association (Colorado Party) a proposal for celebrating the first centennial of the party's founding. The document says that in order to achieve the reconciliation and unification of the party, "all of us must forget offenses and assume conciliatory attitudes." According to the information we have, the Political Committee of the party's Government Junta will study this document today.

The document was given to the president of the Government Junta, Dr Juan Ramon Chaves, on 3 February, and it bears the signatures of former ministers, former congressmen, and former members of the party leadership. The document says that it is intended to convey the concern and suggestions of a group of citizens who, by tradition and conviction, are steadfast members at the service of the Colorado Party.

A passage of the document reads: "A political organization like ours, Mr President, that is about to reach its centennial with a record of almost 30 years of political hegemony in the past century and almost 40 years of government in this century deserves to commemorate the occasion in a way that is not only a remembrance of our party's glorious past. It will be reasonable and just to exalt -- as we all will gladly do -- the events and personalities that have contributed to the creation, growth, and consolidation of our powerful party. But nothing will be better in this centennial than the expressed will of all Colorados to eradicate, or at least smooth out, the problems presented by the party's current situation."

The document then adds: "It is understandable that in the long years our party has been in government that it had to suffer the impact of actions and reactions that may well have disturbed the harmony among its members. And it should surprise no one that dispersive or splintering trends appeared in the party's midst -- as frequently occurs in democratic organizations -- in the wake of impassioned disagreements, or unbridled ambitions, or because officials who control public order have more frequently sought the most expeditious, although not the most sound, solutions. Nevertheless, and whatever its causes -- which are always many and complex -- this is our political reality. We look like an archipelago of dispersed groups where fertile land for resentment and attitudes that can be detrimental to party interests, and even to the national interests, can be found. When discord reaches such an extent, it is time for the party leadership to attempt to find adequate solutions, which can only be found by the practice of politics understood as the art and science of the ability, imagination, and prudence that make a government just and the people happy. And we have no doubt that the honorable Government Junta under your presidency will face up to the challenge of our reality by formulating a party policy that suits the needs of the new times.

"Mr President, we submit this proposal to you with loyalty and good will, with no other purpose than serving the good of our party and the happiness of our nation. It is opportune to recall, Mr President, a historical event of the not too distant past which we nostalgically remember as an example of civic and party maturity and responsibility. In mid-1955, conditions similar to those prevailing today hindered the party's operations at a time when serious external threats hung over the country. In those circumstances, our leaders and governors found, at the precise time, the formula capable of reuniting the dispersed Colorado groups. We will never forget that 27 October 1955 marked a happy hour of rediscovery and unification of all the party members."

Elsewhere, the document adds that "to commemorate the happy events that shape the political existence and power of our glorious Republican National Association, we believe that a call for the unity of all Colorados should be in order. To that end, all of us must forget offenses and assume conciliatory attitudes so that disagreements and discord can be tempered, thus restoring family bonds within the ANR. This is our best wish, not only for partisan but for national reasons as well. Anyone who believes that we are making a proposal out of sectarian motivations is mistaken. It will perhaps be advisable, Mr President, to note the subtle connections that tie the national concord to the reconciliation of all Colorados. It will be difficult, maybe impossible, to secure national concord if we cannot rally all Colorados together. Only by bringing together the archipelago of dispersed groups will we again be a human continent of undoubted civic potency capable of serving the best national aspirations."

This document was accompanied by a memorandum of suggestions for the Government Junta regarding the approaching centennial of the ANR's founding in 1887.

The document is signed by Dr Edgar L. Insfran, Mayor (SR) Hugo Couchonal Lagrave, Eng Lorenzo Mengual, Dr Carlos Zayas Vallejos, Dr Carlos Maria Ramirez Boettner, Dr Honorio Campuzano, Don Ernesto Barchelo, Dr Atilio R. Fernandez, Dr Antonio Salum Flecha, Don Enrique Volta Gaona, Dr Efrain Enriquez Gamon, Dr Oscar Facundo Insfran, Dr Horacio Galeano Perrone, Dr Victor Hugo Sanchez, Surveyor Sila Estigarribia, Dr Felipe Nery Huerta, Dr Luis Torres Salinas, Dr Marcial Valiente, Don Marcelo Abente Argana, Dr Pastor C. Filartige, Don Odilon Benitez, Dr Antonio Fernandez Gadea, Don Gerardo Herrero Cespedes, Prof Simeon Lombardo, Don Anibal R. Martinez, Don Lorenzo Garbet, Dr Nelson Villate, Don Marcos A. Morinigo, Don Hermes Troche, Dr Ovidio Fleitas, Don Bernardo Rodriguez, Don Jose Rodolfo Ocampos, Don Carlos Waldemar Acosta, and Accountant Justo German Ferreira.

CHURCH ISSUES DOCUMENT ON NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PY190042 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Feb 86 p 8

["Text" of document issued by Asuncion Archbishop Ismael Rolon on the national dialogue, released on 17 February]

[Text] "It happens at times that important and burning issues, like embezzlement and robbery within state institutions, illegal acquisition of dollars at preferential rate of exchange from the Central Bank, contraband, and crimes, either by fatigue, mental exhaustion, or on orders from above," vanish little by little. Thus, nothing happens here. Will the national dialogue suffer the same fate?

"The Church is willing to cooperate, and is preparing for this task. We think that the people are alert, keeping their minds and eyes open to the subject. A small snowball is beginning to roll down the hill....

"The newspapers and radio stations have provided much information on the opinions, for and against dialogue, on those who want it and those who reject it, and why. We consider this diversity of opinions natural and useful. The broader these diversities and disagreements are, the better it is to try a dialogue with those who use good judgment and know-how to appreciate the well-being of all. We believe that these disagreements are the precursor of dialogue. For this reason, they must not be stopped.

"Although some claim that 'there has always been political dialogue under the current regime,' or that only the 'regular' groups are in a position to participate in the dialogue, we think that in order to be NATIONAL [preceding word published in uppercase] sectors of opinion and national interest must participate in some way. It is not a question of going against the law, or of trying to replace the authorities. It is a question of a common quest for a happy future, for an era of peace on the eve of the 21st century, of the year 2000.

"Perhaps it would be good to recall briefly some characteristics of dialogue. We do not presume to have the last word on the subject, nor to set definitions, but only to describe it:

"1. It should be kept clearly in mind that dialogue is not an opportinity for lamentations, accusations, recriminations of the past or the present. It is a meeting, an encounter with responsible friends.

"2. There must be interlocutors, with identical rights to speak and identical obligations to listen.

"3. The same language must be used, that is: that each word or sentence must have the same meaning to all. Otherwise, a 'conversation of the deaf' will be held.

"4. Each subject must be discussed thoroughly, avoiding useless digressions that distract. Everyone must speak clearly and briefly. This is no place for political harangues or an academic conference.

"5. Dialogue does not only mean arguing. Generally, he who argues tries to overcome and even to humiliate the adversary. But an intelligent discussion helps to discover or clarify the truth; in this regard, dialogue includes a respectful, intelligent and serene discussion to find the truth.

"6. Party fanaticism must be totally eliminated, because the only and necessary objective is the good of the Paraguayan people.

"7. Dialogue presupposes previous spiritual conditions that perhaps are within the reach of all:

-- To admit one's own errors and limitations;

-- To repent of these errors and limitations;

-- To be willing to improve, as a right and obligation;

-- To admit the importance of the participation of others, because no one has all the true answers;

-- To see the interlocutors as friends interested in the same patriotic work.

"This joint, sincere, and loyal effort will lead us to the NATIONAL RECONCILIATION [preceding words published in uppercase] demanded for so long by all Paraguayans and by history. "We Christian believers are convinced that reconciliation, pardon, and peace are gifts of God. The Episcopal Conference has, therefore, urged the priests and the faithful to ask, in the Holy Mass, for the help of the Lord so that the national peace becomes a reality very soon, through His help with the efforts of man. We are also convinced that each and everyone must shoulder part of the responsibility in the national life."

GOVERNMENT RENEGOTIATES PAYMENT OF FOREIGN DEBT

FL142230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2028 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] New York, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuela, the fourth most indebted nation of Latin America, today obtained the support of the World Bank for postponing its debt payments for 2 years due to the drastic fall of oil prices on the international market.

The committee of banks negotiating the Venezuelan foreign debt, which totals $35 billion, reported it had finished sending telex messages to 450 creditor banks, notifying them that payments due in 1985 and 1986 will be postponed until 1989 and 1990 [years as received].

Venezuela's request, together with that of Mexico, which is one of the most important Latin American oil exporters, was formalized last Tuesday during a meeting of the committee of banks in New York, Venezuelan Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua, and director of Public Credit Jorge Marcano. Today, the committee of banks officially reported it had acceded to Venezuela's request for a 2-year postponement of its foreign debt payments. Venezuela owed its 1985 payments. A spokesman for the committee of banks said: The Venezuelans are very worried by the fall in oil prices.

Despite this restructuring of the Venezuelan foreign debt, both sides -- the committee of banks and Venezuelan officials in New York -- said the firm decision has been taken to sign the agreement to refinance on 26 February, exactly as had been planned. The agreement includes $21.2 billion of the total of $35 billion. The period of repayment agreed on is 12 years, at [words indistinct].

According to the committee of banks, the agreement to postpone payment of the Venezuelan debt was made because the bankers consider that the situation of this Latin American country permits greater flexibility because its foreign debt is relatively low ($35 billion) and the Central Bank has reserves of $15 billion.

A banker said some details must still be worked out but he did not believe the signing of the agreement would be delayed.

GUATEMALA ASSURED OF CONTINUED OIL SUPPLY

PA181748 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Caracas, 17 Feb (EVE) -- Hernan Anzola, Venezuelan deputy minister of energy and mines, said today that Venezuela will continue to cooperate with Guatemala in supplying oil under the terms of the San Jose Agreement.

Anzola met with his Guatemalan counterpart, Eduardo Castillo Countroux, to discuss matters related to the relations between the two countries in the area of the oil supply.

The Venezuelan minister said that the election of a democratic regime in Guatemala is a factor that will allow the strengthening and expansion of bilateral economic relations and trade.

Guatemala is one of nine Central American and Caribbean nations that receive oil from Venezuela and Mexico at advantageous prices under the pact known as the San Jose Agreement.

At present, Venezuela exports 8,500 barrels of crude a day to Guatemala and participates in technical assistance projects for Guatemala's oil industry, mainly in the form of training for oil experts.

Castillo Countroux is the first high-ranking Guatemalan Government official to visit Venezuela since Vinicio Cerezo became president on 14 January of this year.

FOUR RADIO STATIONS 'TEMPORARILY' CLOSED

PA151708 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1422 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Caracas, 15 Feb (DPA) -- Four radio stations in Venezuela have been closed temporarily for not complying with the government decree that forces them to broadcast one recording of Venezuelan music for every foreign record played.

The decree, popularly known as the "one for one," was violated by the following radio stations: "Ecos del Orinoco," "Radio Reloj," "Radio Aeropuerto Internacional," and "Radiodifusora Andina," all located in cities in the interior of Venezuela.

They will be closed for 72 hours beginning Monday.

BRIEFS

NEW DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER -- Interior Affairs Minister Octavio Lepage swore in William Davila, former Merida governor, as the new deputy minister of the interior yesterday. [Excerpt] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 1-14 PA]

OIL PRODUCTION -- The Energy and Mines Ministry has announced the official figures for oil production in 1985 as compared with the previous year. The average production for 1985 was 1,564,000 barrels per day. This production figure is 131,000 barrels per day less than that in 1984. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Jan 86 p 1 PA]

DEPUTY URBAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER -- Urban Development Minister Cesar Quintana will swear in Jose Ernesto Garanton today as the new deputy urban development minister [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 1-14 PA]

COMPTROLLER GENERAL RESIGNS -- In a letter to Reinaldo Leandro Mora, president of the National Congress, Comptroller General Ricardo Sillery Lopez de Ceballo officially presented his resignation today and explained that his resignation is for health reasons and at his doctor's recommendation. Zoraida Garcia Fara is now in charge of the comptroller's office. She will be acting comptroller until the Congress appoints a new official. [Summary] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 86 PA]

NEW OIL BED DISCOVERED -- The enterprise Lagoven has discovered a large light oil bed 30 km from Maturin, in Monagas state. It has been estimated that this bed will yield 1 billion barrels daily. The find is regarded as the national oil industry's largest. [Excerpt] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 86 PA]

DE LA MADRID CONGRATULATES PORTUGAL'S SOARES

FL180420 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0355 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- In a message sent tonight congratulating Portuguese President-elect Mario Soares, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said that friendly relations between Mexico and Portugal will be strengthened during the coming years. The Mexican leader congratulated the outstanding Portuguese politician after the elections held in that country.

De la Madrid said: It is especially pleasant for me to express my cordial congratulations on your electoral victory. I am sure that during your term as president of the Portuguese Republic that the friendly relations that exist between our peoples and government will be strengthend.

De la Madrid concluded by reiterating the friendship and understanding that is shared with Soares.

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR NONINTERVENTION

FL171622 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2005 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Government will continue to honor the principle of non-intervention that has distinguished it internationally as the promoter of dialogue and peaceful solutions for world problems, the Mexican under secretary of foreign relations, Ricardo Valero, said today.

He said that in the case of South Africa and Namibia, Mexican policy is based on the principles of independence, nonintervention, and [words indistinct] racial discrimination and apartheid. He stressed the fact that the contributions of the Mexican Government to the world community are important because Mexico has called for the denuclearization of Latin America, a new international economic order, world disarmament, and the elimination of nuclear testing at sea and on land.

Speaking on a Mexican television program, he said Mexico has not varied and will not change its traditional international stance on different world conflicts, which stance is clearly adjusted to the charter of the United Nations.

GROUP OF SIX CALLS FOR HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

FL180400 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0320 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By Yazmin Ross]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico proposed here today that the Group of Six call a heads of state summit meeting before the superpower leaders continue their strained dialogue which began last November. The proposal was made by Mexican Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles during the technical work meeting the representatives of the six countries held yesterday behind closed doors to discuss disarmament. The proposal is to promote a meeting between Presidents Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and Prime Ministers Olof Palme of Sweden, Andreas Papandreou of Greece, and Rajiv Gandhi of India. Mexico will host the meeting.

The group of six was created May 1984 when they issued the declaration of the five continents stating humanity's right to life without nuclear threats. The first summit meeting was held in New Delhi in 1985.

Representatives from the group said the heads of state want to take advantage of the tension created after the meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev to insist on a moratorium on nuclear testing. The most effective method is to unite the six heads of state and insist on the measures proposed 26 October, said officials from the Directorate of Nuclear Affairs of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

USSR SUGGESTS TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC COOPERATION

FL182248 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1708 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By Angel Armendariz]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Peter Koshelev, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, has said that the Soviet Union wishes to contribute to Mexico's technological independence and is confident of establishing long-term economic ties.

During an interview with NOTIMEX, the Council of Ministers deputy chairman [as received] said the Soviet Union and Mexico have enormous possibilities that have not yet been explored for establishing scientific and technological cooperation.

Koshelev stressed that Mexico has traditionally been friendly with the Soviet Union and because of this there is interest in expanding equal economic ties between the two countries. All that is needed is the final decision to begin the process.

The Soviet official said that falling international hydrocarbon prices, particularly Mexico's, offer the opportunity to establish technological ties in the oil area and the industrialization of natural gas.

Koshelev also reported that a Mexican delegation was recently in the Soviet Union to evaluate technological exchange in nuclear-electrical material, and the USSR offered technology, equipment, and credit.

He also announced that next March the Soviet Union will be able to formalize a contract for transferring copper technology with the Mexican Cananea Mining Company.

The possibilities for technological, scientific, and economic exchanges between Mexico and the Soviet Union are extensive. They will have to be studied and approved before becoming operational, Koshelev said.

The Soviet Union has a technological potential that could contribute to Mexico's economic and technological independence and that could be mutually beneficial for the two countries' peoples, Koshelev said.

DELVALLE, UNADE PARTY LEADERS DISCUSS 'FRICTION'

PA181848 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Feb 86 p 12 A

[By Jose Quintero]

[Excerpts] It has been learned that at a recent meeting that President Eric Arturo Delvalle held with leaders of the National Democratic Union (UNADE), neither the possibility of a government junta nor a strategy to combat the opposition and economic terrorism was discussed.

LA PRENSA investigations revealed that the main purpose of the meeting was to resolve the friction -- over the proportional distribution of the new famous "political posts" -- that exists among the parties that make up the governing alliance, which carried former president Nicolas Ardito Barletta to power.

The free paper of Panama [LA PRENSA] interviewed the president of the Panamenist Party, Luis Gaspar Suarez, and asked him about the meeting. He defined it as a meeting to eliminate "strife within the family," and to smooth out differences among comrades. Suarez said that for 5 hours each party -- PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], Republican Party, Panamenist Party, Liberal Party, and FRAMPO, [Broad Front Party] -- outlined its problems. However, he explained that at no time was an attempt made to take the PRD "to task;" instead, understanding and cooperation were requested in connection with the differing views of administration and in view of the inevitable clashes that occur among parties sharing ministerial and official positions.

Suarez disclosed that to find solutions, the creation of a special commission was proposed, to be chaired by President Delvalle, with the participation of one representative per party. It would meet regularly and coordinate in resolving any willful or involuntary clash, friction, or injury that occurs in order to avoid "political cannibalism" and achieve greater unity within UNADE. Asked about the budget for government institutions like the Public Works Ministry, where reductions led to dismissals and wage cuts, he said that the matter would be studied by the commission. He denied that the group has discussed dismissals; instead, he said, he discussed ways to strengthen the bonds of cooperation among the parties.

To summarize, the special commission, of which Colonel Jose Dominador Bazan [former Panamanian president and father of the present ambassador to the United States] will be a member, will advise President Delvalle on the fair distribution of political posts to avoid a "free-for-all," as occurred at the start of the Ardito Barletta administration when Suarez was obliged to demand that the president define the position of his party, the Panamenist party, within 48 hours.

CONATO REITERATES REJECTION OF LABOR CODE REFORMS

PA181518 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Feb 86 p 1 A

[By Lisette Carrasco]

[Excerpts] The leadership of the National Council of Organized Workers (Conato) remained firm in its opposition to a reform of the Labor Code during the meeting held yesterday with several Cabinet members and members of the UNADE political coalition, claiming that the draft reform is "the same" as the one presented by former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

Members of the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] also attended this meeting during which the "Plan of Objectives and Actions for the Development of Panama," presented by President Eric Arturo Devalle, was also analyzed. The meeting, held behind closed doors at the La Siesta Hotel, began early in the morning and ended 6 hours later.

Also present at the meeting were Planning and Economic Policy Minister Ricaurte Vasquez, Finance and Treasury Minister Hector Alexander, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Jorge Federico Lee, and Commerce and Industries Minister Jose Bernardo Cardenas. Representing UNADE were Rigoberto Parades, Jose Isabel Blandon, Gerardo Gonzalez, Francisco Harmodio Icaza, and Raul Delvalle.

Representing the FDP were Majors Fernando Quezada, Daniel Delgado and Felipe Camargo.

Meanwhile, we talked with Eduardo Rios, a Conato leader and secretary general of the Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers [Suntracs], who told us the meeting with government officials "was at the invitation of the UNADE sectors and the government in order to explain Delvalle's plan."

He said that the government sector presented Conato the draft Labor Code reforms and added that "it was not difficult to completely refute them and to reject them."

The Suntracs leader feels the reforms to the Labor Code are similar to the ones proposed during the administration of former President Ardito Barletta.

When asked what the reforms to the Labor Code presented by the Delvalle administration covered, the labor leader said that "they cover several articles of the Barletta draft, that is all they do. They attack basic labor rights such as: the waiver of rights, the base salary guarantee, and the minimum wage guarantee."

He explained that the draft reforms to the Labor Code now include an "alleged freedom of hiring, which violates the labor right establishing that the worker is considered the weaker party in the worker versus enterprise relationship. The draft reform points out that we are equal, that is, that the worker is as strong as the enterprise."

He reiterated that Conato clearly stated its stand of "not amending the Labor Code."

When referring to the participation of high-ranking FDP officers, he said that "according to Rigoberto Paredes -- who was apparently coordinating the group -- they are part of an economic team of the government."

COSTA RICA

MONGE DEFENDS POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA

PA181400 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez has said that if he had listened to his opponents there would have been war. Monge said: I think those who have opposed the way I handled relations with Nicaragua did not realize that if I had followed their advice and policies, Central America would have become involved in a conflagration a long time ago. He warned that if that had happened, Costa Rica would have already sacrificed the lives of thousands of Costa Ricans in a war with Nicaragua.

Regarding Nicaragua's explanations, Monge said he would have preferred something more than a statement by that country, but added: our obligation is to maintain peace. An intransigent stance (?would have resulted) in a permanent freeze in relations. An intransigent stance, said Monge, could have prolonged this inconvenient phase of a freeze in relations, or the lack of normalization of relations with Nicaragua. He added: We must recall that Nicaragua, with which we have great ideological differences, was not prepared to get on its knees to apologize to a handful of Costa Rican political leaders. It is enough that they gave us a sign of wanting to give an explanation, which they did not want to do. Monge reiterated that if God had given us a choice of neighbors we would have chosen Switzerland and other countries.

Moreover, it was reported that diplomatic language is not [words indistinct] as President-elect Oscar Arias stated, but rather it is vague, and has always been vague throughout history, the president said. Regarding the normalization of relations with Nicaragua, he said that one cannot say things the way all of us would have preferred. However, he added that this is not an obstacle to maintaining normal relations. Monge reiterated that we cannot stop having normal relations with a country with which we share a common border of 360 km because we cannot move out of here.

GUATEMALA

USAID BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM ABUSES REPORTED

PA182240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1846 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government admitted today it has received reports that the Agency for International Development, USAID, a U.S. Government agency, is conducting sterilization programs on Indians in the western highland.

Guatemalan Health Minister Carlos Armando Soto said USAID's birth control activities "are going to be thoroughly investigated, and if we find out that the Indians are being deceived into participating in the sterilization programs, the law will intervene and we will turn down all aid in this field." He said the Guatemalan Government will not allow a massive sterilization program in the country because "the Health Ministry already has a defined policy on family planning that has been accepted without any obligation by people interested in it. Besides, we are opposed to birth control practiced in an improper manner."

Minister Soto said the government will investigate the family planning programs that the Family Welfare Association, Aprofam, is carrying out in this capital and in other parts of the country.

Soto said there are "many reports that Aprofam is employing family planning methods that are endangering women's health and lives." Soto added that "there are definite reports that the methods being used have in the long run caused serious damage to the womb and even cancer in women who have gone to that organization to participate in the birth control programs sponsored by Aprofam.

"If we find out that Aprofam is conducting a massive sterilization program, the government will immediately suspend the aid Aprofam is receiving from the state for its family planning through sexual education program," Soto said. Soto did not mention the amount of money the state is annually giving to that institution, which, he added, "has an agreement for family planning, but not to use birth control methods that endanger women's lives."

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICAN POLITICIAN FAVORS NEUTRAL BORDER ZONE

PA142307 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Costa Rica could be regarded as truly neutral state by the world if it would only definitely accept the proposal made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on establishing a neutral area on the two borders, Costa Rican Humberto Vargas Carbone, representative of the Popular Vanguard Party said. Concerning the presence of contras in his country, Humberto Vargas Carbone said the Costa Rican people are opposed to these foreign troops in their territory, as they create a conflict between the two peoples and are committing acts of vandalism against the Costa Ricans.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] President Daniel Ortega's proposal for establishing a demilitarized zone on both sides of the border could be an important contribution to the good relations and peaceful coexistence between our two countries. We are struggling and will always struggle so that our border with Nicaragua will be a peaceful border and not one of confrontations and war. The Costa Rican people repudiate the presence of the criminal bands, which as you well know, not only attack Nicaragua in order to serve the aggressive purposes of the Reagan administration, but also engage in vandalism and looting in Costa Rican territory.

There is no other alternative but that of eliminating these bands, and then the Costa Rican Government will be able to say before the world that it is a truly neutral nation. But it will be able to do this only when it adopts the political decision to eliminate all of the mercenary bands' strongholds in our territory.

[Reporter] The Guatemalan president recently proposed the creation of a Central American parliament to strengthen ties among the area countries. What do you think of this proposal?

[Vargas] In general, we think the meetings held during the inauguaration ceremonies of President Vinicio Cerezo were positive and will contribute to peace. We think the creation of this Central American parliament or assembly could be an important contribution to what is essential in Central America: halting the Yankee aggressors and establishing peaceful coexistence among our countries. Thus, this could be an important contribution.

[Reporter] Now let us talk about the Costa Rican elections. What do you think are the possibilities of overcoming the economic crisis, and how would you evaluate the electoral process that has just taken place in your country?

[Vargas] The Costa Rican economic crisis has very deep roots, this being the exploitation of U.S. imperialism practically throughout our history as an independent nation. This exploitation is very evident today in our country's huge foreign debt. As you know, our per capita debt is one of the largest in the world. The ruling classes in Costa Rica have lost their power to make decisions on the social and economic problems in the country because they are subject to the rulings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In other words, overcoming the crisis in Costa Rica means achieving true independence and being able to have a policy independent of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and developing an economy for the benefit of the popular masses.

The current economic system that has been imposed has caused living conditions to deteriorate rapidly. As you know, over 60 percent of the people earning salaries in our country have incomes that do not allow them to cover the basic material needs; unemployment is growing; land distribution occurs less frequently; and small and medium size farms have less possibilities to obtain financial aid. We have a very high percentage of children not attending school. Public health services, even those rendered by the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, have also deteriorated. Our crisis could have serious social repercussions. Conditions must be proper for overcoming the crisis, and in order to do this, very deep political changes must take place. The main change must be the achievement of true independence by our country from U.S. imperialism, which is exploiting us.

[Reporter] What can you say about the elections that recently took place in your country?

[Vargas] The elections are over. Dr Oscar Arias of the National Liberation Party won the elections. We think he will maintain the domestic and international policies and programs carried out by President Monge. We do not expect great changes to occur. However, [words indistinct] and we can only evaluate this administration by its actions, although we will continue to be in the opposition [words indistinct]. [end recording]

5 POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED; OTHERS STILL HELD

PA190011 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2344 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Managua, 17 Feb (DPA) -- A bulletin released by the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC) today reported that five political and labor leaders of various organizations opposed to the Nicaraguan Government were freed a few days ago, but the PSC continues to demand the release of more than 10 other activists.

The ones who have been released are: Larry Schoures, Estanislao Ortega, and Jose Altamirano, who are leaders of the Nicaraguan Workers Federation; journalist Luis Mora Sanchez of the Social Democratic Party; and Tomasa Hernandez de Urbina, a PSC activist.

According to government intelligence authorities, several of the released prisoners were implicated in counterrevolutionary activities, including the terrorist plan "Alacran," that sought to destroy economic objectives in Managua by using explosive devices.

The authorities did not file charges against several of the released citizens. Journalist Mora Sanchez spent almost 6 months in jail after he was arrested during a public demonstration by religious people at Sandino International Airport, June 1985 at the time of Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo's return to Managua following his appointment as a cardinal by the Vatican.

The prisoners whose release the PSC is still demanding are, among others:

Julio Ramon Garcia, Humberto Urbina, Miguel Cisneros, Cesar Flores, Eduardo Paredes, Julio Suarez, Nelson Tabora, Salomon Telleria, and Moises Gutierrez. According to government organizations, some of them have been given various sentences by the authorities for disrupting public order and security.

UNO SUPPORTS OBANDO Y BRAVO'S STATEMENTS

PA172225 Panama City LA PRENSA (NICARAGUA HOY Supplement 8 Feb) in Spanish 15 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] The Labor Commission of the Nicaragua Opposition Unity (UNO) has echoed the statements by Cardinal Obando Y Bravo at the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), and issued a communique recently in San Jose, Costa Rica expressing support for him. The communique, signed by the following labor leaders in exile -- Commission Coordinator Zacarias Hernandez and Executive Director Carlos Martinez -- says in its main paragraphs:

"The Labor Commission concurs with the statements issued by the cardinal claiming that from a pastoral viewpoint, he advocates a national dialogue among all affected Nicaraguan forces, internally and abroad. Apparently, the cardinal's statements upset Nicaraguan dictator Daniel Ortega, who immediately attacked the cardinal, accusing him, as usual, of being unpatriotic."

"Political experience proves that since 1980 the Nicaraguan people have wanted a dialogue between the oppressors and the oppressed. The dictatorship seeks a dialogue with the United States as a ruse to divert international attention in order to obtain political gains in the public opinion sector, thereby gaining time for its expansionist goals."

Meanwhile, some Latin American political leaders -- who are not interested in resolving the Nicaraguan problem, and who only want to antagonize the United States -- are playing the FSLN's game, asking for a dialogue between the dictatorship and the United States to make people believe that the problem is international and not domestic.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's position has obtained international acceptance. The Nicaraguan people support the church's position advocating peace. The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference has expressed support for the cardinal in his brave revelations at the United Nations of repeated violations of human rights, which once again prove the oppression the Nicaraguan people are currently experiencing.

FDN LEADER ON U.S. AID, POSSIBILITY OF INVASION

PA182351 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The mediation of the Contadora Group has brought specific results today in Central America: Costa Rica and Nicaragua have agreed to allow patrol operations at their common border by third countries.

The Honduran side of the border remains the focus of greater tension. The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, headed by Enrique Bermudez, a former Somozist colonel, operates in that region. He was the Nicaraguan military attache in Washington when Somoza was toppled. During a tour of Central America, Carlos Alberto Chica, special Promec news envoy, interviewed him:

[Begin recording] [Chica] How many men are militarily involved in the FDN today?

[Bermudez] Currently, we have more than 18,000 men.

[Chica] Eighteen thousand?

[Bermudez] Eighteen thousand combatants with extensive fighting experience; and we have gained leadership experience on the battlefield itself.

[Chica] Look, some people see you as a person lacking moral authority to lead the FDN militarily because you were colonel of the Somozist Guard.

[Bermudez] I am a career military man; I am professional. I served an institution, not a person.

[Chica] What is your main source of aid?

[Bermudez] Mainly the U.S. Government. We believe that there is now more willingness at the international level and in the United States to grant us aid to launch a final offensive against Sandinism.

[Chica] It is difficult to make predictions, but how long do you think it will take you to control all of Nicaragua militarily?

[Bermudez] If we receive the aid President Reagan will request in the next few days, we can predict that 1986 will be the last year for the Sandinist regime.

[Chica] Is a U.S. military invasion possible?

[Bermudez] We Nicaraguans can resolve this problem ourselves. However, if we do not receive support, there would be no other option than a U.S. invasion, because if that measure does not pass, a new bastion of the USSR expansionist policy will take hold. [end recording]

U.S. ATTEMPTING TO HOLD UP $50 MILLION IDB LOAN

PA180004 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The IDB is holding up a $50 million loan for agricultural development projects in Nicaragua because of threats by the U.S. Government. President Commander Daniel Ortega made this announcement this weekend. In the traditional "Face the People" program, held this week in Chinandega, Daniel Ortega said that one year ago the IDB approved the loan. However, it will not deliver the funds because the Reagan administration has threatened the bank.

Addressing a large crowd of workers and medium-and large-scale growers in the western part of the country, Commander Ortega said that it is hard to carry out an economic program in the face of aggression. He said that when we plan, we must make conservative estimates, bearing in mind foreign cooperation and making a realistic appraisal of our domestic possibilities.

U.S. Congressmen from Oregon (Jeanette Andy), Republican, (Mike Burton), Democrat, and (Frank Roberts), Democrat, [names, titles as heard] also attended this "Face the People" program. Commander Ortega explained to the members of Congress that farmers lack security because of the aggression facing the country. The senators [as heard] asked representatives of the private sector to testify before the U.S. Congress so that the U.S. public will know the facts and reject the new request for aid to the counterrevolutionaries.

The Nicaraguan president explained to the visitors how the bands financed by the United States force farmers to abandon their farms in the war zone. He said that the aggression forces us to expand the agrarian reform to meet the demands of the displaced people.

The president of the republic urged all Nicaraguans to increase their true work day to bolster our country's economy. In the "Face the People" program in Chinandega, Commander Ortega said that in order to increase the productivity and efficiency of our work, we must follow a discipline of Sandinist awareness.

[Begin Ortega recording] As far as the labor problem is concerned, as far as the plan is concerned, we face a reality. In this country, in these days, the real 8-hour workday has been reduced to 4 hours; that is the truth. Those who work efficiently can complete their workday in 4 hours. Those who loaf can spend up to 10 hours, but in 4 hours, [applause] in 4 hours a workday can be completed. The great challenge we are facing is to start increasing our true work day, because we would be misinterpreting the revolution's victory if we believe that now we can rest more and work less. And then how about production? How about production? In order to increase production, we must work more. [end recording]

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SEND MESSAGES TO 3D CONGRESS

SED Greetings

AU070744 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4 Feb 86 pp 1-2

[Text] East Berlin (ND) -- The SED [Socialist Unity Party] Central Committee sent the following greetings message, signed by General Secretary Erich Honecker, to the Third Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Congress, which is starting today in Havana:

Dear comrades:

The SED Central Committee extends to you, the delegates to the Third PCC Congress, to all Cuban Communists and working people revolutionary and fraternal militant greetings.

The excellent balance which your party congress may draw fills us with great pleasure and respect. Under the proven leadership of its battle-tested Marxist-Leninist party, with its first secretary, our esteemed friend and comrade Fidel Castro, at its head, Cuba has developed -- in a historically short period of time -- into a firm bastion of real socialism on the American continent. Through creative application of Marxism-Leninism and based on the revolutionary enthusiasm of the workers' class and its allies, the fraternal Cuban people have further developed the material-technical base of socialism and have achieved exemplary performances in all areas of society. Important experiences have been undergone in building socialist society under the complicated conditions of a formerly deeply backward, dependent country.

At the same time, the Cuban people have steadfastly and consistently repelled all attacks on imperialism and have reliably defended the achievements of their revolution. Thus, the firm basis was created on which your party congress will decide new guiding tasks for further improving socialism in Cuba.

Your party congress takes place at a time when decisions are made that are of the utmost importance for the fate of mankind and for further international development. The USSR and the other socialist countries are struggling to preserve peace and create favorable external conditions for shaping socialist society. In this respect, Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals of 15 January 1986 for ridding the world of nuclear weapons are of outstanding, even historical, significance and deserve the entire world's support.

With its active, creative foreign policy, Cuba makes an important contribution to strengthening the community of socialist states and preserving and safeguarding peace. Cuba's active role in and great commitment to the Nonaligned Movement, the struggle for peaceful coexistence, disarmament, and detente, and its energetic solidarity with the peoples fighting for their freedom and independence are recognized worldwide. Its active work for a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Central America and other regions of the world, for the reorganization of international economic relations on a just, democratic basis, and for solving the problem of the developing countries' indebtedness have further increased Cuba's international authority.

Dear comrades: In our country all activities are currently influenced by the preparation for the 11th SED Party Congress. The excellent results of the great popular movement for preparing for the party congress in all areas of society prove that our party's tested policy is supported by the entire people.

With this the GDR working people make their conscious contribution to further strengthening socialism in the center of Europe and to the peace policy of the German worker-peasant state.

Located on the border between the two social systems in Europe, the GDR, at the side of the fraternal socialist countries, will continue to hold an active political dialogue in order to contribute to an improvement of the international situation.

The close and fraternal militant alliance between our two parties, states, and peoples, which is based on socialist internationalism, has fully proved its worth. We note with pride and satisfaction that the May 1980 treaty of friendship and cooperation between the GDR and the Republic of Cuba is being implemented in a manifold way in all fields of political, economic, and cultural cooperation. Active solidarity with the first socialist country in America is a point of honor and a matter of the heart for GDR Communists and citizens.

The SED Central Committee wishes the Third PCC Congress much success and the fraternal Cuban people further great successes for the benefit of Cuba and our common cause of socialism and peace.

RCP Message

AU071322 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 6 Feb 86 p 5

[Report on "RCP [Romanian Communist Party] Message of Greetings" delivered by Iosif Banc, member of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee, to the Third PCC Congress in Havana on 5 February]

[Text] Esteemed comrades: On behalf of the RCP and its secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, we want to extend warm, comradely greetings to the delegates to the Third PCC Congress, the Communists, and all working people in the Republic of Cuba, as well as wishes for complete success in the proceedings of your congress.

The Romanian Communists and all our people are familiar with and appreciate the important achievements registered by the Cuban people -- during the years of socialist construction and under PCC leadership -- in developing the economy, science, culture, and education, and in constantly improving their material and cultural standard of living.

We are firmly convinced that the tasks that will be proposed at this congress for the coming period will ensure Cuba's accelerated socioeconomic development and a further improvement in the Cuban people's well-being.

We want to take this opportunity to stress with satisfaction the fruitful development of relations of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity between the RCP and PCC and between Romania and Cuba in the spirit of the meetings and understandings between Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, PCC first secretary and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

We want to express our firm conviction that these positive relations will continue to develop and deepen in the future, to the benefit and in the interest of our peoples and the cause of peace and socialism.

The message then outlines the achievements registered by the Romanian people in various areas of activity.

At this point, the Romanian people, closely united around the RCP and the party secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, are firmly engaged in implementing the party program of building a comprehensively developed socialist society and Romania's advance toward communism and the 13th party congresses decisions aimed at raising the country to new heights of progress and civilization.

Concerning themselves with resolutely implementing the program of socialist construction in Romania, our party and state are also carrying out extensive international activities and are promoting a policy of peace and cooperation with all peoples in the world.

The RCP believes that the current international situation continues to be very serious because of the unchecked continuation of the arms race, the existence of numerous conflicts and tension, the world economic crisis, and the policy of force and interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. All this has led to an unprecedented aggravation of international relations and to the maintenance and even increased danger of a new world war which, under current conditions, would lead inevitably to nuclear catastrophe.

Under these circumstances, we believe that the basic problem of our era is to halt the arms race and to proceed to disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, and defend people's and nations' supreme right to existence, free life, and independence.

The Romanian people -- in fact all peoples in the world -- have followed with keen interest the summit meeting between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States, a meeting that represented an important event in the current international situation. That meeting ended with certain positive results.

At the beginning of the current year, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev presented the new proposals of the Soviet Union regarding reducing nuclear weapons and eliminating the entire arsenal of nuclear arms by the year 2000. The RCP views this program as very important. Its fulfillment will, without doubt, be of great significance for overall international developments and will eliminate the greatest danger that threatens the very existence of life on our planet. It is therefore necessary for us to support this program firmly and to act with great determination to implement it.

At the same time, Romania believes that activities aimed at general disarmament and reducing both conventional weapons and troops must be intensified, because only in this way will we be able to ensure a general lessening of tension and eliminate the danger of new wars. At the same time, our party and state believe that it is and will continue to be necessary to reduce military expenditures as an expression of the desire to implement general and nuclear disarmament programs in order to create conditions for eliminating war from peoples' lives.

Within our international activity we pay particular attention to relations with the socialist countries and to strengthening their unity and solidarity in the struggle for peace and socialism. We also develop relations with developing countries, with developed capitalist countries, and with all countries in the world, regardless of their social system. All those relations are based firmly on the principles of full equality of rights, national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and mutual advantage.

We advocate firmly the settlement of all conflicts and states of tension in various parts of the world by exclusively political means and negotiations in order to eliminate for good the use or threat of force in interstate relations.

Romania is in full solidarity with the struggle waged by the peoples in Central America and by peoples everywhere to defend their rights to decide independently their means of socioeconomic development, without any outside interference. In this respect, we value the efforts made by the "Contadora Group," whose initiatives may contribute to the settlement of the situation in Central America by negotiations and to defending and safeguarding those peoples' right to free and independent development.

Our party and state are particularly concerned about the accentuation of the phenomenon of underdevelopement, the widening of the gap between the developing and developed countries, and the problem of extremely high foreign debts that burden the developing countries, a fact that requires the establishment of a new international economic order based on full equality and equity in interstate relations.

The RCP is developing relations of friendship and solidarity with all communist and workers' parties and struggles untiringly to achieve a new type of unity based on the principles of equality of rights and respect for each party's right to establish independently its political line and its revolutionary strategy and tactics. We also promote broad cooperation with the socialist and socio-democratic parties, with the national liberation movements, and with all revolutionary, progressive, and anti-imperialist forces interested in establishing an atmosphere of peace and international security.

We believe that strengthening the cooperation and unity of action of all those revolutionary and progressive forces of the present-day world constitutes a decisive factor for asserting a new trend in the international arena, a trend of understanding, cooperation, and peace in order to ensure each people's sacred right to decide independently their destiny and to achieve their aspirations for freedom, independence, and progress. Within this framework, our parties and countries are able, in our opinion, to make an important contribution to resolving the great problems confronting mankind today and to the triumph of the ideals of socialism in the world.

We extend warmest wishes for success to you in implementing the important decisions that will be adopted to serve the interests of the friendly Cuban people and the cause of peace and social progress, of building a better and more just world on our planet.

RCP Central Committee

CHURCH LEADERS ADDRESS NATIONAL MEETING

PA181746 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The president of the Cuban Episcopal Conference, Msgr Adolfo Rodriguez Herrera, has affirmed that the church in Cuba must be open and provide for dialogue and participation. Msgr Rodriguez spoke Monday at the opening session of the Cuban national church meeting, together with Cardinal Eduardo Tironio, the archbishop of Havana; Msgr Jaime Ortega; and Bishop Dario Castrellon, secretary general of the Latin American Episcopal Conference.

The archbishop of Havana noted that the Cuban church seeks to better serve the people, their happiness, unity, and progress. Cardinal Tironio said that the pope is paying close attention to this church meeting, while Bishop Dario Castrellon described it as extremely important and responding to the spirit of renovation within the church.

A young delegate, a university student from Santiago de Cuba, recalled that Catholics live and work in a socialist society and expressed the desire of the laity to strive increasingly for the development of our people and to contribute to social unification.

Pope Sends Message

FL182326 Bridgetown CANA in English 1719 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Vatican City, Feb 18, CANA-REUTER -- Pope John Paul said in a message published today that a current conference of the Cuban Roman Catholic Church should be inspired by the past sacrifices of Cuban Catholics. The message, interpreted by Vatican observers as a call to Cuban Catholics to remain faithful to the church's teachings, was sent by the pope to a week-long ecclesiastical meeting of the Cuban church in Havana.

The meeting, which began yesterday, will seek ways of strengthening the activity of the Cuban church without running foul of the communist government. The 1959 revolution established atheism as official policy in Cuba but President Fidel Castro is now trying to improve relations with the Vatican, and the ecclesiastical meeting was organized with full government approval. The government provided visas for several church leaders from abroad to attend the meeting and Cuba's Ambassador to the Holy See Luis Esteves attended the opening ceremony.

Our church has to be the church of openness, the church of dialogue, said Bishop Adolfo Rodriguez of Santiago de Cuba in a speech to the conference at the Calalinas Convent here. The church wants nothing more than the space necessary to accomplish its mission, the bishop added, stressing that it did not wish to be seen as a potential opposition force to Cuba's communist government. The conference will debate a working paper which calls for the Catholic Church to accept Cuba's communist society, while continuing to spread the gospel and seek new members.

In particular, the working paper calls for greater church access to the education system and mass media.

Havana Notes Greetings

PA190153 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 86

[By Maruja Garcia]

[Excerpts] Pope John Paul II has sent a message of solidarity to the bishops, clergy, and Catholic faithful on the occasion of the Cuban national ecclesiastical meeting being held in Havana from 17 to 23 February. Cardinal Eduardo Piregna, president of the pontifical council for the laity and Pope John Paul II's personal representative, was the bearer of the Roman high pontiff's message.

In his message, the pope hails the work of Cuban Catholics who have been engaged in ecclesiastical reflection since 1979 in each of the country's parishes and at the diocesan level. The results of the survey and consultations conducted were included in the working document which over 200 delegates from all Cuban dioceses are currently debating.

Havana Archbishop Msgr Jaime Ortega has stated that the Cuban Church seeks to better serve the people, their happiness, unity, and progress, and wants to participate in building a new Cuban society. As Msgr Jaime Ortega said in his address to this meeting, the Cuban Catholic Church is not going to ask itself what it must do now, because it already knows, but rather how to do it.

The Cuban national ecclesiastical meeting is being attended by local newsmen as well as over 50 foreign newsmen, including those of Netherlands, Spanish, U.S., Canadian, and FRG television.

VEIGA ENCOURAGES CTC ELECTION OF YOUTHS, WOMEN

FL190058 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Roberto Veiga, Politburo member and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, has said that Cuba is ready for the 20 February process of electing representatives from the workers' movement, which will continue through 31 March and will be highly democratic in electing the best workers as trade union leaders. Veiga referred to the importance of the assembly process, which involves 50,000 trade union sections throughout Cuba.

Veiga also referred to the goal of electing the greatest number of youths and women possible, and he said women currently compose 36.7 percent of the total labor force, a rate that should be exceeded in leadership roles.

1ST OF 12 NEW SHIPS ARRIVES FROM EUROPE

FL151859 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The ship Bahia de Manzanillo has arrived at Havana Bay and is docked at the Juan Manuel Diaz Pier. This is the first of 12 ships under construction in European shipyards that should arrive in Cuba before the end of the year.

The Bahia de Manzanillo has a more than 16,000-ton dwt and a speed of more than 15 knots per hour. In addition, it has excellent accommodations to make life more agreeable for sailors.

In the Sevilla and Bilbao, Spain, shipyards, there are seven ships under construction with similar characteristics. In England four ships are under construction for general cargo transport, which will allow for expansion of maritime capabilities and replacement of old ships.

GRENADA

PRIME MINISTER VIEWS 20 FEBRUARY REAGAN VISIT

To Request $37 Million in Aid

FL182316 Bridgetown CANA in English 1651 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By George Worme]

[Excerpts] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 18, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize plans to ask United States President Ronald Reagan for EC100 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) to help rebuild the island's rundown infrastructure over the next three years, Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell said today. Reagan will be here for nearly four hours Thursday and will hold separate bilateral discussions with Blaize, when the proposal will be made. He will also meet leaders of nine Caribbean countries.

I think thats a reasonable figure to help the government over the remainder of its three-and-a-half years in office, Mitchell told CANA.

According to U.S. figures, Grenada has received U.S. 72.6 million dollars in American aid since the invation.

With regard to the U.S. president's summit with the regional leaders, Mitchell said he expected the American-sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) would feature prominently in the talks. I don't think the CBI is functioning as it really ought to, and we believe that there is now a need for the package to be restructured, he remarked.

Mitchell said the regional leaders would most likely ask Reagan to help finance the Regional Security System (RSS) shared by seven eastern Caribbean islands. Mitchell said he expected Reagan to give a favourable response to the RSS-related proposal since it would be in Washington's interest to have a secure Caribbean in order to avoid situations similar to the one in Grenada in 1979 when the island's elected government was toppled in a leftwing coup.

Calls Reagan 'National Hero'

FL182120 Bridgetown CANA in English 1929 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 18, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize today said U.S. President Ronald Reagan could expect a warm welcome on his visit to the small east Caribbean island on Thursday. He told reporters Grenadians considered Reagan their own national hero and he described the United States as our major number one friend.

Reagan is visiting Grenada nearly two-and-a-half years after American troops stormed the island to put down a leftist group that had seized power in a bloody coup. Blaize said that Grenadians feel a sense of gratefulness to the American president for his courage in taking decisive action in helping the island to get out of a hole when we needed him most. We are going to make sure that Grenadians see and have an opportunity to welcome the person they consider as their own national hero, he said.

A public welcome at Queens Park in which Reagan is due to deliver a 15-minute address is among the planned highlights of the visit -- the first by an American president.

During today's news conference, Blaize spoke at length about the foreign assistance Grenada had obtained since the U.S.-led 1983 invasion. The United States has provided the bulk of this aid, with assi ance from Britain, Canada, Europe, and Venezuela. We have got friends but our major number one friend is the United States of America, Blaize remarked. Most of the aid had been used by Grenada on infrastructural projects on roads, electricity, water, and rehabilitation of the key agricultural sector.

The prime minister said that his 14-month old administration is prepared to accept aid from donors but on conditions that the aid would help Grenada to stand on its own two feet. We are a proud people. We do not wish to continue to be beggars. We never beg like mendicants. We always seek help but to help us stand on our feet. We don't want hand-outs from anybody no matter how big or large, he added.

Blaize spoke of the Grenada Government trying to reorganize the key sectors of agriculture and tourism which provide the bulk of the island's foreign exchange earnings. He expressed confidence about Grenada's ability to bring about economic development because of the assistance the island was getting for rebuilding its infrastructure. He expected tourism to help a great deal in boosting the economy especially with the Point Salines International Airport now fully opened and that agriculture would be revitalized through help being received from the World Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In addition, Blaize expressed confidence that the type of assistance which Grenada was getting from friendly sources would put the island in a position in the near future to help others.

HAITI

DUVALIER ASSETS NATIONALIZED; APPEALS FOR CALM MADE

HK190616 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Feb 19 (AFP) -- Haiti's new regime nationalized ousted President Jean-Claude Duvalier's assets and appealed Tuesday night for calm on a day when panic gripped the capital over fears of his former henchmen resuming their reign of terror. The new national government council, formed before Mr Duvalier fled to France 12 days ago, said all his goods were now "the inalienable property of the state." The communique made no mention of assets the ex-president had abroad. Most of his reputed 500 million dollar fortune is said to have secreted [as received] out of the country during the 28 years he and his father before him were in power.

Meanwhile the government moved to stem the panic which swept the capital after false rumours that Mr Duvalier, whom France has been trying to get rid of, had left his tightly-guarded place of exile in the French Alps for another country. Fears that this would lead to some form of retaliation by the officially-dissolved Duvalier militia, the Tontons Macoutes, closed shops and emptied schools in Port-au-Prince. One radio station also reported rumours that two children had been killed at a school.

In an appeal for calm, Information Minister Colonel Max Valles urged Haitians not to be impatient and asked them to ignore any "incitement to anarchy".

In what was seen as a response to criticism that the new regime was moving too slowly to banish the Duvalier legacy, he also listed steps it had already taken, such as freeing political prisoners and dissolving the Tontons Macoutes.

On Tuesday a crowd of some 200 people, some armed with stones, gathered outside a petrol (gasoline) station in a poor quarter of the capital after a rumour that a member of the Tontons Macoutes was hiding inside. Police searched the station without finding anyone.

JUSTICE MINISTER FAVORS EXILES' GRADUAL RETURN

PA181633 Paris AFP in Spanish 1441 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Feb (AFP) -- Gerard Gourgue, member of Haiti's National Council and new justice minister, today said that he favors the principle of a return of exiles, but stressed the risk involved at the present time if a large number of Haitians return from abroad. "The main issue is not the principle of a return of exiles, which is undebatable, but whether the doors should be opened wide at the present time," Gourgue told the Haitian LE MATIN (independent liberal) newspaper in an interview.

He also stressed that "the main problems have not been solved," citing security, employment, and financial problems. To Gourgue, these "essential matters come first," before a solution can be given to the exile problem. "We must have a certain waiting period in order to allow for orderly admissions," he noted.

Meanwhile, the newspaper LE NOUVELLISTE, a moderate leading paper in the Haitian press, announced that certain Haitians who are arriving without return visas and are still considered "undesirables" are being sent back abroad immediately by immigration and police services.

Several thousand Haitians who fled the country under Duvalier's regime for political reasons, and who now want to return, are challenging the former regime's return visa procedure, which is still in effect.

PROTESTS, UNREST IN PORT-AU-PRINCE REPORTED

Army Denies 2 Killed

FL182050 Bridgetown CANA in English 1859 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By John Cotter]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb 18, CANA-REUTER -- Bands of youths protesting against Haiti's new military-dominated government and calling for immediate elections raced through the street of the capital today, closing down schools only one day after they reopened. Several hundred youths broke up into routing bands of between 30 and 50, and a radio report that a high school had been burned down and two students killed sparked panic in some neighbourhoods. The report proved false, but many fearful parents rushed to schools to get their children.

The trouble broke a week of relative calm in this Caribbean country, where 11 days ago 28 years of dictatorial rule by Duvalier ended when President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to France.

The protestors, many of them from provincial towns still hostile to the new military-civilian government, threw stones at at least 10 schools when school authorities refused to shut them. Iron gates in front of the Lysee du Cent, Cinquantenaire were ripped down by youths, who were not students at the school, in one of several hit-and-run attacks. As the demonstrations gathered steam, people ran through the streets and a woman was hit by a car and thrown into the air. She was carried off by two bystanders to a hospital. Some of the youths came in from the provincial towns of Gonaives and Jeremie, where schools were closed yesterday.

The protests began this morning with a demonstration in front of the Presidential Palace by about 200 youths demanding immediate elections and the removal of holdovers from the Duvalier regime in the new government. The demonstrators, chanting slogans heard through the city since the uprising, became angry when troops at the palace did not take down the red-and-black Duvalier flag and replace it with the country's new red-and-blue flag. Gerard Frederique, a Haitian who studied in the United States, said: It looked to me like the military colour guard troops tried to take down the flag but it got snarled in the roping. Groups of youths then began running towards the schools in the surrounding area. After the schools were closed, demonstrators gathered about an hour later in front of army headquarters, waving the new flag and chanting for the soldiers inside to take down the old flag, to be officially replaced later this month.

As a result of demonstrations, most primary and secondary schools in the capital were shut only a day after they were reopened. Radio stations reported that two students were shot dead at the Lysee Petion and that the school had been burned, but soldiers at the school said there was no trouble and no deaths. Army Lieutenant Jean Pinard said the panic was caused by a lie on the radio and the school's director Joseph Simeon said he planned to reopen the school tomorrow.

Merchants Close Shops

PA181832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1810 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Feb (EFE) -- The main business sector in the Haitian capital closed its operations today following a shoot-out at a Port-au-Prince school. The merchants closed their shops at mid-morning, following rumors that two youths were killed in the shootout.

A fire occurred in an office of the electric company, which is located near a U.S. school in this city.

In spite of the promises of liberalization by the new government led by General Henri Namphy, the boycott of schools continued. Student attendance has been very low since the schools reopened.

Meanwhile, protest demonstrations continued today in Les Cayes, the third most important city in the country.